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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/701,471 | 11/06/2003 | Hirohito Inoue | 2003-1507A | 8583 |
| 513 | 7590 | 08/24/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P. 2033 K STREET N. W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021 | | | VELEZ, ROBERTO | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | | 2829 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SF

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|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/701,471 | INOUE, HIROHITO |
| | Examiner Roberto Velez | Art Unit 2829 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 06 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/06/2003</u>. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4)<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. 5)<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6)<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by ***Okabe (US Pat. 6,459,285)***.

Regarding claim 1, ***Okabe*** shows (Fig. 1) a burn-in apparatus for screening plurality of semiconductor devices comprising: a plurality of operation training wafers [16] each formed of semiconductor to which a conductive film is applied on the face thereof, or a material having conductive properties [21]; a cassette [11] having a plurality of slots [13] for housing the plurality of wafers, and a plurality of electrodes [55] contacting the plurality of wafers when the plurality of wafers are inserted into the plurality of slots [13]; a vacuum pincette [53] having a conductive suction part for operating each wafer; voltage application means [15] for applying a voltage between each electrode [55] of the cassette [11] and the suction part of the pincette; and state detection means [14] for detecting contact between the pincette [53] and each wafer [16] by detecting a potential of each electrode [55] of the cassette [11] or a current flowing to the electrode [55].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claim 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ***Okabe (US Pat. 6,459,285)*** in view of ***Zohni et al. (US Pat. 6,540,467)***.

Regarding claim 2, ***Okabe*** discloses everything claimed, as applied in to claim 1, above, with the exception of a cassette having display means for specifying a wafer to be operated based on operation specification information. However, ***Zohni et al.***

discloses (Column 9, Lines 15-29), LED lights [1046] as display means for specifying the situation concerning the functions being done in the cassette.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of *Zohni et al.* into the device of *Okabe* by including a cassette having display means for specifying a wafer to be operated based on operation specification information. In the manner set forth above for at least the purpose of indicating if the functionality of the cassette is good or bad concerning the wafer that the operator wants to test.

Regarding claim 3, *Okabe* and *Zohni et al.* disclose everything claimed as applied above, in addition *Okabe* discloses (Column 7, Lines 33-42) decision means [14] for deciding the presence or absence of erroneous operation based on result of detection by the state detection means and the operation specification information.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Okabe* (*US Pat.-6,459,285*) and *Zohni et al.* (*US Pat. 6,540,467*) and further in view of *Tanaka et al.* (*US Pat. 5,777,485*).

Okabe and *Zohni et al.* fail to disclose a decision means having output means for generating sound when it decides the presence of erroneous operation. However, *Tanaka et al.* discloses decision means [4] having output means for generating sound (Column 12, Lines 33-37) when it decides the presence of erroneous operation.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the teachings of *Tanaka et al.* into the device of *Okabe* and *Zohni et al.* by including decision means having output means for

generating sound when it decides the presence of erroneous operation. In the manner set forth above for at least the purpose of generating a warning sound to notify an operator of a possible defect in the system.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

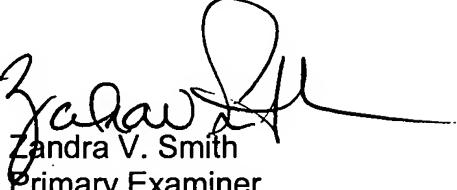
Rochet et al. (5,929,766) discloses a device for controlling semiconductor wafer transport cassettes. ***Rochet et al.*** discloses (Column 3, Lines 54-62) a cassette having lamps [32] as display means for specifying a wafer to be operated based on operation specification information.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Roberto Velez whose telephone number is (571) 272-0218. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (571) 272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Roberto Velez
Art Unit 2829


Sandra V. Smith
Primary Examiner